



General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement Newsletter

Tonto National Monument

United States Department of the Interior – National Park Service



HC02, Box 4602 Roosevelt, Arizona 85545

September 1999

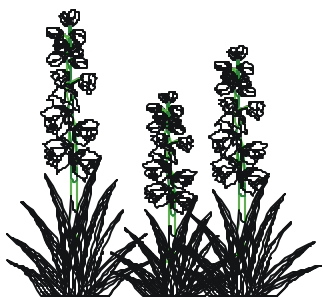
The Park

Tonto National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 787 on December 19, 1907 (35 Stat. 2168) under the administration of the Department of Agriculture to protect "two prehistoric ruins...of great ethnographic, scientific and educational interest...and one section of land upon which same are located."

Executive Order No. 6166 on June 10, 1933 (47 Stat. 1517) consolidated all functions of administration of certain areas, which included Tonto National Monument, into the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, thus moving it from the Department of Agriculture. Monument boundaries were significantly expanded by Presidential Proclamation No. 2230 on April 1, 1937. This second proclamation recognized both "prehistoric ruins and ancient cliff dwellings" and added to the monument 480 acres of adjacent National Forest lands, "which are required for [their] proper care, management and protection." Both proclamations expressly warn against unauthorized appropriation, injury, or destruction of monument features and against settlement on these reserved lands. This brought the size to 1,120 acres.

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Help Us Plan for Tonto's Future

The National Park Service has begun planning for long-range management for Tonto National Monument. The Tonto Master Plan was last revised in 1958. The new GMP is needed to establish the basic management philosophy of the park and provide guidance for decision making that affect the park's resources and the visitors' experience of the site.

The purpose of our newsletter is twofold:

to share information about the GMP process with you and;

to obtain your thoughts and view on what Tonto NM should be like in the future.

As you know, the national park system represents a collection of our national heritage and includes many of the nations most outstanding and significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources. Each unit contains

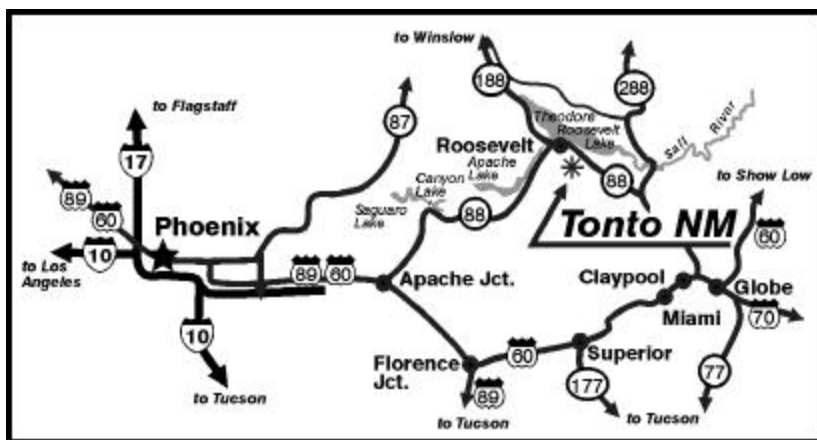
resources and values that make it something special—even nationally significant. Tonto National Monument represents superlative resources, important to the cultural heritage of the nation—prehistoric cliff dwellings, other archeological sites, cultural materials, and the associated Sonoran Desert environment where the *Salado* lived more than five centuries ago.

Public participation is an essential aspect of our planning process because your input enables the park to assess the site's current conditions and anticipate future needs.

Public input also insures that the site has meaning and value for park visitors. Please take some time to help us plan for the future by *filling out our mailback response form*. Give us your thoughts on how we can provide the highest quality service to the visiting public, while preserving the park's heritage and resources for our children.

For your convenience, we have also provided this newsletter and a response form on a website on the Internet. You may fill out the form online and follow the progress of our planning effort in the coming months at the website located at:

<http://www.nps.gov/planning/tont>





Our park has undergone significant changes since its establishment. This planning effort allows the park staff and the public to reflect on these changes and carefully determine a course of action for this very important culturally significant monument.

Participate with us in charting our park's future and ensuring the heritage our park represents is passed on to future generations.

Sincerely,

Lee Baiza, Superintendent

What is a *GMP* and Why is it Needed?

A General Management Plan (GMP) is a tool that establishes the basic management philosophy of the park and provides rationale for making management decisions that affect the park's resources and the visitor's experience of the site. Its purpose is twofold:

- To clearly describe specific resource conditions and visitor experiences in various management units throughout the park and
- To identify the kinds of management, use, and development that will be appropriate to achieving and maintaining those conditions.

The GMP process helps determine what experiences the park should provide and how its resources should be preserved.

The GMP presents distinctly different alternatives that address the park's present and future needs such as future development, stewardship of its natural resources and its educational and interpretive programs.

It also provides the linkage between the park and the national park system...that piece of America's Heritage that the park represents.

Some of the fundamental questions a GMP needs to answer are:

How can we best protect what is important for preserving the park and providing for visitor use for present and future generations?

What level and type of use is appropriate to meet the purpose and significance of the park?

What facilities are needed to meet the mission goals of the park regarding park operations, visitor use and interpretation, natural resource management, and partnerships?

What boundary adjustments, if any, need to be made to enhance and support the purpose and significance of the park?

The Purpose of Tonto National Monument

Each park in the National Park System is established for a specific purpose. The reason or reasons why Tonto National Monument was set aside is called its *park purpose*. The *park purpose* reflects current scientific or scholarly

inquiry and interpretation. Purpose statements are based on legislation, legislative history, and historic trends. Other legislation that affects each park unit includes the 1916 Organic Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

Tonto National Monument preserves, protects, interprets, and manages prehistoric cliff dwellings, other archeological sites, cultural materials, and the associated Sonoran Desert environment where the Salado lived more than five centuries ago.

Special Mandates

In addition to legislation, the following agreements affect the area's management.

- interagency US Forest Service fire management.
- right-of-way for power transmission line crossing the monument.
- special use permit for telephone line crossing the monument.
- special use permit for State Route 88/188 maintenance.

Interagency Fire Fighting Cooperation

An interagency agreement with the Tonto Ranger District, US Forest Service provides for cooperation in fire fighting.

Power Transmission Line

A special use permit granted to the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District provides a right-of-way for power transmission line across the monument.

Telephone Lines

A special use permit granted to Telephone Data Systems/Telecom provides for the construction and maintenance of telephone lines across the monument.

State Route 88/188

A special use permit granted to the Arizona Department of Transportation provides for the administration and maintenance of State Route 88/188 through the monument.

Significance Statements Capture Site's Importance

Each significance statement captures the essence of Tonto National Monument's importance to our nation's natural and cultural heritage. They describe the distinctiveness of the aggregate of resources that distinguishes Tonto National Monument as one of the units in the national park system that offers a unique experience within a regional, national, and global context.



The significance statements identify the exceptional values and resources that must be preserved and maintained to achieve the purpose of the park. These statements also help park managers set resource protection priorities, identify primary park interpretive themes and desirable visitor experiences.

- Tonto National Monument contains the only examples of the prehistoric Salado culture in the National Park System, and the best preserved Salado cliff dwellings that are interpreted and accessible to the general public.
- Three major and several smaller cliff dwellings, numerous other sites, artifacts, and the surrounding Sonoran Desert landscape have enormous potential for teaching about indigenous peoples and how they adapted and thrived in an arid

environment.

- Textiles from Tonto include some of the finest prehistoric examples in North America in regard to quantity, degree of preservation, variety of weaves, and weaving techniques.
- Tonto has a fine collection of Salado polychrome ceramics, which were among the most widely traded throughout the

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National
Monument's
Future**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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